

224 identification of these animals). These are the staple food animals, as nearly
 262 as any can so be called. Capybaras, kapi:ba, armadillos, atsi:gamo, merum,
 and mauraima, and anteaters, warémg, are sometimes eaten but are not so
 [261] specifically hunted. Monkeys, carnivores, sloths, opossums, and the small
 rodents are not regularly hunted or eaten except in times of food scarcity.
 Some allied Indians, even among the Arekunas, regularly eat monkeys but
 most of the Kamarakotos expressed distaste for monkey flesh.

In spite of the variety of food mammals available, it seems in fact to be
 relatively rare to obtain one and their meat, however much enjoyed when obtained,
 is not a staple. Few mammal bones are seen around the houses and the
 Indians do not claim to be able to procure such game regularly. 110

223 Birds are more often procured, but still not regularly. They range from
 262 the large okira and karmaiba down to the tiny kamata. The principal sorts
 eaten will be found in the Vocabulary. ¹

224 Among reptiles and amphibians only the tortoises and the larger lizards,
 • 225 ayamaka, are ordinarily eaten, and these not often. ayamaka-eggs are an
 262 eagerly sought delicacy when in season and the eggs of practically all the larger
 wild birds are also eaten. Most Indians eat crocodilians and the absence of
 these from the Kamarakoto diet is perhaps due rather to rarity and difficulty of
 capture than to distaste.

222 Among insects the large ant-like bachacos, kaiba', are eaten as are
 262 some larvae found in palm trees, taiya' and two. Other insects may be eaten
 in times of need but are not regular items of diet. Wild honey, tautsan-yeukui,
 [231] is much prized but is not abundant enough to be a staple. I did not hear of any
 [237] attempts to domesticate bees. Honey is also used for tattooing and beeswax for
 fastening blowguns together, coating quivens, etc.

Hunting.

224 Hunting, carried on only by men, is a favorite occupation but probably
 [462] not a very productive one. One would anticipate that such Indians would be
 [453] skillful hunters and certainly all the men engage in this and have abundant
 paraphernalia for it and many tales of their prowess, but as far as I could check
 [122] the actual performance it is not impressive. For instance we employed suc-
 cessively two men who were agreed to be the best hunters in the tribe, arranged
 for them to have all their time for this, gave them whatever they wished in the
 way of ammunition, and offered extra prizes for any unusual success, but one
 of them did not succeed in getting any game and the other drew blank most days
 and in a week he got only one animal, an acure, that could be considered a
 [262] success from the point of view of pot-hunting. I have already remarked on the
 [411] evidence that animal food is more a treat than a regular item of diet. We were
 also unimpressed by such examples of marksmanship, with their weapons or with
 ours, as we saw.

110 [see foot note on pp. 319-20, category 116 - Analyst]

2 [see vocabulary on pp. 59-61, category 116 - Analyst]